

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Special Branch

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. B. REGISTRY

Date June 12, 1931

Subject (in full) Report in Chinese press re. shooting of two Chinese Military policemen by an alleged Russian at Quinsan.

Made by D.S.I. Moore.

Forwarded by

Sir,

With reference to the above, the offices of the papers concerned have been visited, who all state that the report was received from a press reporter, whose name they would not divulge, who covers the railways. The "Shun Pao" stated that they knew Detective Inspector Ross and a Chinese detective of the S.M.P. had visited the scene of the shooting.

D.S.I. Moore
D.S.I.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

12/13/31

*File
12:6:1031*

2.
29.
BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL,

Shanghai.

No. S. B. D. 2464.

8th June 1931.

Sir,

You will have seen the news item in the "North China Daily News" of 4th. June to the effect that a foreigner, stated to be of Russian nationality, had fired on and killed two Chinese gendarmes near Quinsan on the Shanghai-Nanking Railway at about 10 p.m. on the evening of 1st. June and that he had been arrested the following morning.

I have strong reasons for believing that the foreigner who was arrested is a British subject named William John Hay Thorburn, aged 19, though whether he was concerned with the alleged shooting is another matter. Thorburn left his home on 31st. May and has not yet returned, and I have therefore the honour to request that I may receive the assistance of the Municipal Police in investigating the matter.

Captain R.M.J. Martin,
Commissioner of Police,
Shanghai Municipal Council.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,


Consul-General.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

S.I. Station,

Date June 6 19 31

Subject (in full) foreigner arrested for alleged shooting at Weiting

Made by Supt. Tan Shao Liang

Forwarded by

Henry Robinson C.D.

I have made enquiries this morning at the Public Safety regarding the foreigner who was arrested near Weiting for firing at and wounding two soldiers. Col. Chen had no knowledge of the affair and referred me to the Railway Police. Mr. Deng Chu Yu Chief of the Railway Police after telephoning to Quinsan informed me that the soldiers or Military Police who effected the arrest of the foreigner had been transferred to Nanking that they took the prisoner with them and that the prisoner is now detained at the Military Police Headquarters at Nanking

南京憲兵司令部。

Tan Shao Liang
Superintendent.

Officer i/c S.B.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Special

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

Branch No. REG. 31000

No. S. B. D. 2464

Date June 6, 1931

File No. 6-6-31

Subject (in full) Shooting of Military Police.

Made by D. I. Ross

Forwarded by Henry Robertson C.D.

In continuation of a report dated June 5 on the above subject I forward herewith a medical certificate, dated June 5, issued by Dr. E.Y. Kau of St. Lukes Hospital, regarding the result of his examination of the two Military Policemen Li Kuo-zai (李國才) and Sung Li-aung (沈立生). It would appear that the Police were misinformed concerning the true nature of these men's wounds as neither of them received injuries in the head.

D. I.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

a copy of the certificate was handed to Mr. Blackburn H.B.M. Com. on June 8.

D. I. 6/6

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Special Branch S.1. ~~STAN~~

REPORT

Date June 6, 1931

Subject (in full) Letter and telegram from Mr. M. Hay Thorburn

Made by D.I. Ross

Forwarded by *Henry Robertson C.D.*

In accordance with the instructions of the Officer i/c Special Branch the attached letter and telegram dated June 5 from Mr. M. Hay-Thorburn were shown to Mr. A.D. Blackburn, H.B.M. Consulate-General, on June 6, who stated that the Consul-General did not wish the Municipal Police to prosecute official enquiries regarding this matter outside of Shanghai.

D.I.
D. I.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

J.P.L.
6:6:21

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
Special Branch No. 30 Station,

REPORT

Date S. D. D. 2464
June 3, 1931
at 5:30 p.m.

Subject (in full)

Shooting of Railway Police by Foreigner alleged to be Russian, but suspected to be a British subject, named William John Hay-Thorburn.

Made by

D. I. Ross

Forwarded by

Henry Robertson C.P.I.

With reference to the article entitled "Russian arrested for killing Railway Police", which appeared in the Shun Pao and other local vernaculars on June 3, 1931, enquiries show that at 7 p.m. June 1, sixteen soldiers of the 4th Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment of the Military Police, left their headquarters at Quinsan (蕪山) and proceeded by train to Weiting (唯亭). Here they divided into groups of four, one party proceeding along the railroad towards Chen-I (正儀) Station which is situated between Quinsan and Weiting. About 10 p.m. when about 3 li west of Chen-I the soldiers observed a fairly tall man walking along the track towards them. They challenged him and asked for the password but received no reply. They then ordered him to halt for the purpose of searching him. The man obeyed and raised his arms. Two soldiers named respectively Li Kuo-zai (李國才) and Sung Li-sung (沈利生) approached him and by the light of a flashlamp carried by the first named revealed the man to be a foreigner. As they attempted to search him the man suddenly dropped his arms and fired three or four shots with a pistol which he had in his hand wounding Li Kuo-zai in the chest and Sung Li-sung in the head and liver. The other two soldiers, who were following some little distance behind, on hearing the firing ran up to investigate but the foreigner had made good his escape in the darkness. A search of the spot resulted in the finding of a loaded pistol, reported to be a "Browning" together with a leather ammunition belt containing a number of pistol cartridges and several note-books.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Station,

Date 19

Subject (in full)

Made by

Forwarded by

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A search was then made for the assailant and during the early hours of June 2, a foreigner, who is suspected of having done the shooting, was apprehended on the railway track near Weiting. Upon being searched he was found to be in possession of a loaded pistol and a handkerchief bearing the following inscriptions "Sea Scout Troop". He was taken to Quinsan where he was detained until the afternoon of June 2, when he was removed to Nanking under escort. He is reported to be at present detained in the headquarters of the Defence Commissioner there.

The two wounded men were brought to Shanghai on the morning of June 2, and were admitted to St. Luke's Hospital where they are at present lying in a critical condition.

In connection with this affair enquiries made by members of this office among the villagers of Quinsan disclose the information that at about 4 p.m. on June 1, a foreigner answering to the description of William John Hay Thorburn, (Memo No.340) and who was subsequently identified from a photograph by the wife of Tsang Ah-sing (張合興), owner of a dry goods store, arrived in Quinsan walking along the railway track from the direction of Shanghai. He was carrying a small bundle and was wearing a pair of dark blue trousers with two red braids down the outside of each leg. He spoke Chinese fairly well and after purchasing some sweetmeats from the above-mentioned shop he departed in a westerly direction along the railway. He was later seen in the custody of the

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Station,

Date 19

Subject (in full)

Made by

Forwarded by

- 3 -

Military Police and is identical with the man who was sent to Nanking on June 2.

The unit to which the wounded men belong was transferred to Chingkiang during the morning of June 4.

A pair of red braided blue pants which William John Hay-Thorburn owned and kept in his home at No. 315 Rue Bourgeat, are now missing.

J.B. Kim

D.

I.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

J.B. (bribe)

Information.

Mancel Hay-Thorburn left for Nanking on the morning of June 5 for the purpose of ascertaining definitely if the foreigners being held there is his son.

J. Swans

Off i/c Sp. Br.

5:6:21.

Rufus
H.C.

Information

J.B. Swans
D.C. (CRIME)

June 3, 31

Shooting of railway Police by Foreigner alleged to be Russian, but suspected to be a British subject, named William John May-Therburn.

D. I. News

with reference to the article entitled "Russian arrested for killing Railway Police", which appeared in the Shun Pao and other local vernaculars on June 3, 1931, enquiries show that at 7 p.m. June 1, sixteen soldiers of the 4th Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment of the Military Police, left their headquarters at Quinsan (荊州) and proceeded by train to Weiting (魏廷). Here they divided into groups of four, one party proceeding along the railroad towards Chen-I (陳一) Station which is situated between Quinsan and Weiting. About 10 p.m. when about 3 li west of Chen-I the soldiers observed a fairly tall man walking along the track towards them. They challenged him and asked for the password but received no reply. They then ordered him to halt for the purpose of searching him. The man obeyed and raised his arms. Two soldiers named respectively Li Kuo-sai (李國才) and Sung Li-sung (沈利生) approached him and by the light of a flashlight carried by the first named revealed the man to be a foreigner. As they attempted to search him the man suddenly dropped his arms and fired three or four shots with a pistol which he had in his hand wounding Li Kuo-sai in the chest and Sung Li-sung in the head and liver. The other two soldiers, who were following some little distance behind, on hearing the firing ran up to investigate but the foreigner had made good his escape in the darkness. A search of the spot resulted in the finding of a loaded pistol, reported to be a "Browning" together with a leather ammunition belt containing a number of pistol cartridges and several note-books.

A search was then made for the assailant and during the early hours of June 2, a foreigner, who is suspected of having done the shooting, was apprehended on the railway track near Weiting. Upon being searched he was found to be in possession of a loaded pistol and a handkerchief bearing the following inscriptions "Sea Scout Troop". He was taken to Quinsan where he was detained until the afternoon of June 2, when he was removed to Nanking under escort. He is reported to be at present detained in the headquarters of the Defence Commissioner there.

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In connection with this affair enquiries made by members of this office among the villagers of Quinsan disclose the information that at about 4 p.m. on June 1, a foreigner answering to the description of William John May-Rotherburn, (Memo No. 346) and who was subsequently identified from a photograph by the wife of Tsung Ah-sing (張合興), owner of a dry goods store, arrived in Quinsan walking along the railway track from the direction of Shanghai. He was carrying a small bundle and was wearing a pair of dark blue trousers with two red braids down the outside of each leg. He spoke Chinese fairly well and after purchasing some sweetmeats from the above-mentioned shop he departed in a westerly direction along the railway. He was later seen in the custody of the

- 3 -

Military Police and is identical with the man who was sent to Hanking on June 2.

The unit to which the wounded men belong was transferred to Chingkiang during the morning of June 4.

A pair of red braided blue pants which William John May-Thorburn owned and kept in his home at No. 315 Rue Bourgeat, are now missing.

D. I.

Officer 1/e Special Branch.